

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6359

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4140

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHPAE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3411

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING JUNE 14, 1974: TEXT OF NETHERLANDS

MOD STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL; OTTAWA HOLD FOR SECSTATE PARTY AT NATOMIN

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NETHERLANDS MOD VREDELING STATEMENT BEFORE
THE EUROGROUP ON JUNE 13, WHICH HE ASKED TO HAVE PLACED IN THE
RECORD OF THE JUNE 14 DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING UNDER AGENDA ITEM
IV, NATO FORCE GOALS FOR THE PERIOD 1975-1980. BEGIN TEXT:

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU IN THIS INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE
RESTRICTED SESSION ABOUT THE FUTURE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE EFFORT.

I FULLY APPRECIATE THAT SOME OF THE FEATURES OF THE DRAFT PLAN
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WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO NATO CONSULTATION MAY HAVE COME
AS A SHOCK TO YOU, AND I THINK THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER
IN ALL OPENNESS.

THE NETHERLANDS CABINET FULLY INTENDS TO CONTRIBUTE A FAIR AND REASONABLE SHARE IN THE COMMON DEFENCE, HOWEVER, IT WAS ALSO DETERMINED THAT AFTER MANY YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY, A SYSTEMATIC AND NEW APPROACH TO THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE EFFORT IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PUT IT ON A SOUND BASIS. AFTER CAREFUL STUDY, WE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IF WE CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENTS WITHOUT ADJUSTMENTS, THIS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO AN UNACCEPTABLE FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR QUALITY, BECAUSE IT WOULD SIMPLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND THE VERY CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN DEFENCE EXPENDITURES, WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN QUANTITY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REALIZING THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS IN QUALITY.

WE ALL, AS MINISTERS OF DEFENCE, MUST OBTAIN OUR FUNDS IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND WE MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ESSENTIAL PROGRAMMES FOR COPING WITH THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF MODERN SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR THE NEED FOR INCREASING OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENERGY PROBLEMS.

WE STOOD, THEREFORE, BEFORE A CHOICE, A CHOICE WHICH HAS INDEED BEEN A KIND OF AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL, AND I BELIEVE THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE SELECTED THE MOST SUITABLE OPTIONS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF WHAT THE NETHERLANDS CAN DO BEST FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE.

YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT FOR THE NAVY AND THE STRUCTURE AND TASKS WILL BE GENERALLY MAINTAINED THAT THE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME WOULD PROVIDE A MODERN FLEET, ALTHOUGH SOME TEMPORARY GAPS WILL OCCUR BECAUSE OF INEVITABLE DELAYS.

AS REGARDS THE AIR FORCE, SOME IMPORTANT READJUSTMENTS COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. IN ORDER TO FIND THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO ENSURE, AS ALREADY INDICATED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING, AN ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR OUR STARFIGHTERS WE OPTED FOR LIMITED SCALE-DOWN IN THE FIELD OF ANTI AIRCRAFT MISSILE UNITS. THIS MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE FULL STRENGTH
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OF NINE AIRCRAFT SQUADRONS FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE, THEREBY ENSURING THE FUTURE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIR FORCES.

IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, WE FACED OUR MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS. ON THE ONE HAND, WE COULD NO LONGER IGNORE THE POLITICAL NECESSITY OF REDUCING THE LENGTH OF CONSCRIPT SERVICE, WHICH FOR MOST CATEGORIES OF CONSCRIPTS WILL GRADUALLY BE BROUGHT TO 12 MONTHS OF ACTIVE SERVICE FROM 1975.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ARMY PRESENTS SPECIAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, BECAUSE OF THE LARGE REQUIREMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND THE VARIETY OF UNITS AND EQUIPMENT. THIS WAS THE REASON FOR THE MEASURES

EXPLAINED IN THE DRAFT PLAN, CALLING IN PARTICULAR FOR THE REDUCTION IN THE READY STRENGTH OF FIRST NETHERLANDS CORPS AND FOR CHANGES IN ITS FUTURE STRUCTURE.

AS REGARDS THE FIRST ASPECT, LET ME STRESS AGAIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, IN THIS CIRCLE, AS I DID AT OUR LAST MEETING; THAT I INTEND TO CONFORM WITH NATO MBFR POLICY AGAINST UNILATERAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, AND THIS PRINCIPLE WILL CONTINUE TO GOVERN OUR CONDUCT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PLANS FOR THE ARMY. THE PRESENT SCHEDULE FOR THE REDUCTION ON THE READY STRENGTH HAS BEEN BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE ACHIEVED RESULTS AT THE TIME NOW FORESEEN AS THE START FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

WE MUST, HOWEVER, TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL STILL BE GOING ON AND WILL NOT YET HAVE ACHIEVED THE DESIRED RESULTS AT THE TIME THAT ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE, FORESEEN IN THE PLANS, MEASURES TO EFFECTUATE THE REDUCTION OF THE READY STRENGTH OF THE FORCES WOULD HAVE TO START. IN THAT CASE THE EXECUTION OF THESE MEASURES, WILL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY AGREED WITHIN THIS ALLIANCE, BE SUSPENDED.

THE OTHER MAIN ASPECT OF THE DRAFT PLAN WITH REGARD TO THE ARMY WAS THAT WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT TASK OF FIRST NETHERLANDS CORPS IN THE LONG RUN; I MEAN IN THE NINETEEN EIGHTIES.

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 3411

IN FACT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS IS ONLY A SPECIFIC CASE OF A MORE GENERAL PROBLEM. IN DEVELOPING OUR DEFENCE PLAN IN THE FRAME WORK OF A TEN YEAR PERIOD IT BECAME CLEAR TO US THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY FOR A SMALLER COUNTRY LIKE THE NETHERLANDS, TO MAINTAIN THE FULL SCALE OF THE PRESENT DEFENCE TASKS BEYOND 1980, BECAUSE OF THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF DEFENCE TASKS IN GENERAL AND THE ASSOCIATED WEAPON SYSTEMS IN PARTICULAR.

THIS PROBLEM DOES NOT ONLY CONCERN MY COUNTRY, AND I AM SURE THAT OTHER ALLIES WILL MEET WITH THE SAME DIFFICULTIES SOONER OR LATER. I WOULD THINK THEREFORE, THAT A FUNDAMENTAL RE-APPRAISAL OF OUR DEFENCE POSTURE IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATO STRATEGY IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR, WILL BE NECESSARY.

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AS I INDICATED BEFORE, THE NEED FOR SPECIALISATION OF DEFENCE TASKS AND STANDARDISATION OF EQUIPMENT ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN SUCH AN APPROACH, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF A MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF LIMITED AVAILABLE RESOURCES. IF WE CANNOT MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ALONG THESE LINES, IF FEAR THAT SERIOUS UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS IN THE COMBAT STRENGTH OF ALL OR MOST NATO ALLIES WITHOUT COMPENSATING REDUCTION ON THE WARSAW PACT SIDE WOULD BECOME UNAVOIDABLE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. I DO NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THE NETHERLANDS INTENDS TO SHIFT THE LOAD OF ITS DEFENCE TASKS TO THE OTHER ALLIES, BUT I SINCERELY HOPE THAT OUR ALLIES GIVE ALL NECESSARY ATTENTION TO THIS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM FOR OUR ALLIANCE. I INTEND TO PROPOSE IN TOMORROW'S MEETING THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ARRANGE FOR A STUDY OF THIS PROBLEM, FOR EXAMPLE, BY A SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP. RETURNING TO THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE PROPOSALS, MR CHAIRMAN, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER OUR DRAFT PLANS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE WIDER PROBLEMS I JUST INDICATED. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE NETHERLANDS CABINET CAME TO THE PROVISIONAL CONCLUSION OF NOT COMPLETING THE MECHANIZATION OF THE MOBILIZABLE DIVISION. WE HAVE LAID THIS PROBLEM BEFORE YOU OUR ALLIES, AND WE WILL CERTAINLY GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE COMMENTS MADE IN THE COURSE OF NATO CONSULTATION. IT HAS NEVER BEEN OUR INTENTION TO TAKE PRECIPITATE ACTION ON THIS MATTER, THUS PLACING OUR ALLIES BEFORE ACCOMPLISHED FACTS. I DO HOPE, HOWEVER, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE COMMENTS OF OUR ALLIES WILL ADDRESS THIS QUESTION TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE WIDER PROBLEMS FOR MY COUNTRY AND FOR THE ALLIANCE AS I SEE IT, WHICH I OUTLINED JUST NOW.

FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT WE HAVE SUBMITTED OUR PROPOSALS TO NATO CONSULTATION IN FULL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE

SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS MATTER. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THAT OUR ALLIES HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR PRELIMINARY VIEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE NETHERLANDS CABINET WILL BE ENABLED TO MEET ITS PROMISE TO SUBMIT THE DEFENCE PAPER TO PARLIAMENT EARLY JULY. WE DO NOT PRESENT OUR DRAFT PLAN TO OUR ALLIES AS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT AND WE WILL GIVE YOUR VIEW GREAT WEIGHT WHEN MAKING OUR FINAL DECISIONS. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WE HAVE ALSO MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PUT OUR DRAFT PLAN BEFORE YOU AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE, STRIVING FOR MAXIMUM HONESTY IN DRAWING SPECIAL
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ATTENTION TO THE CRUCIAL ASPECTS FOR NATO DEFENCE, AND LAYING ALL OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE. END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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